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darkness of the middle ages the year epoch, for not only was America discovered in that year by Columbus but that same year beheld Boabdil the last of the Moorish sultans, came forth from the Alhambra and yield up the famous city of Granada, a favorite seat and stronghold of Moorish power, to Ferdinand and Isabella. The expulsion of the Moors from Spain and the discovery of this continent gave birth to an amazing awakening, for soon the stories of the voyages of Columbus and the discoveries of Cortez, Coronado, Drake, Raleigh kindled the theretofore apparently dormant imagination of ture, glory, and science began to cut through the billows of every sea. new physical world thus opened to mankind had, as such things always have, its beneficent influence upon human character and the trend of the world's events, for mental and moral evolution and growth flow from a contemplation of the external charms of nature, and they always excite a lively and intense interest in human existence.

Seventy-two years after the discovery of America began the Shakespearean age, a period during which liberty, progress, and civilization made forward strides; and when Shakespeare's works were published it was ascertained that his writings, in addition to delighting and glorifying the intellectual world, also evoked remarkably strong patriotic and liberty-loving sentiments. For instance, in the play of Julius Caesar, he made one of his characters to say:

"So every bondman in his own captivity."

in his newspaper called the Examiner, published in 1710, forced the liberty has advanced to a greater degree than in any other equal number of years in the world's history.

In 1775 the population of the American colonies numbered approximately 3,000,000 and was principally composed of the descendants of those persons who had emigrated hither to enjoy freedom of conscience, thought and worship. They lived along that strip of land which fringes the Atlantic coast, stretching from Florida to Maine. In their veins was the blood of the Saarsfields and the Calverts, of John Hampden, who arraigned his king for the unconstituional exactions of ship money; the blood of the Irish, whose ardent zeal for and affectionate attachment to liberty and freedom, and whose loyalty and devotion to free government no power can ever crush; the blood of the stubborn Britisher; the Hugenots, the sturdy Scotch, Welsh, Dutch, Scandinavians, the German, and last, but by no means least, the Jew, who has contributed to the progress, glory, and strength of every civilization.

These various families of men, transplanted to this new soil, and welded together by events and years, became the bravest race that ever lived. Their spirit evolved the declaration of independence, written by Thomas Jefferson, that contemplative lover of mankind; and on the committee with him were Roger Sherman, John Adams, R. R. Livingston, and Dr. Benjamin Franklin, whose capacious brain could contain both lightning rods and constitutions.

These brave people cried out, "A

ment and a blessing upon the new-A. D. 1492 was strangely propitious born republic!" and with their bayoin heralding the dawn of a glorious nets wrote another charter of American liberty on the backs of the fleeing soldiers of General John Burgoyne and Lord Cornwallis. England then caught somewhat the spirit of liberty and "made good the declaration of her great Lord Mansfield that 'no slave could breathe her free air,' and thus in all her world-encircling possessions, from the Pillars of Hercules to the Indus, the fetters dropped from the limbs of every English bondman whose ear could catch the music of her drumbeats," so the present contest of the people the Cabots, Frobisher, Hawkins, and in behalf of a larger measure of freedom is not a spasm. It is not a pulsation nor a leap nor a jerk nor a men. These discoveries doubled the sudden start. It is simply part and earth, and ships of conquest, adven- parcel of the resistless advance of progress which can not be stopped or stayed. The movement is seem-The expanse and magnificence of this ingly more pronounced at this particular time, because the facilities for communication afforded by the telephone, the telegraph, and the newspapers are easier than they have ever been before, the facilities for acquiring knowledge are greater, and for the further reason that men who sternly stand for national progress in times of peace are now recognized to be patriots as truly as those who upon the battle field fight for national safety.

In criticising or discussing a "reactionary," a "stationary," or a "standpatter" it is unjust and unfair to apply opprobrious epithets to him. He is simply unfortunate, for he has either misread or failed to read the history of the world. Almost everything that has ever been proposed for the benefit of the people or for their increased liberty has been stubbornly opposed by reactionaries. Every world-important invenhand bears the power to cancel his tion, whether it be a ponderous engine or an ingenious electrical con-Years later the noble rhetoric and trivance, was ridiculed and opposed. inescapable logic of John Milton and Every discovery in science has been the bitter satires of Jonathan Swift, ridiculed by the reactionary. "Galileo was denounced and imprisoned for asserting, in accordance with the abolition of the censorship over the theory of Copernicus, that the sun press, which was another forward was the center of the planetary sysstep in securing a larger liberty for tem and that the earth had a diurnal the people. The past 150 years, how- motion of rotation. In both science ever, has been an age during which and government many people prefer to remain static and undisturbed and naturally resent any interference with their settled beliefs. They look with suspicion upon innovations, new suggestions, and ideas as, in their opinion will interfere in any manner with their present interests." (See

S. Doc. No. 438, 56th Cong., 1st sess.) Hence their tendency to remain in the old ruts, violently oppose improvements or changes, and denounce inventors as cranks and progressives as demagogues. The stubborn opposition of the standpatter and reactionary in invention and government passes all understanding and the singularly sad feature of it is that many of these inventions and reforms in government and economics have been opposed by truly great

Chancellor Livingston, one of the learned men of the state of New York, ridiculed the idea of a railroad in the United States, and stated it was his belief that if a moving body as heavy as a train of cars should ever get started the momentum would be so great that it would fly several miles beyond its destination before it could be stopped, and that no sensible person would risk his life by flying through the air at the rate of 12 or 15 miles per hour. When Murdock invented the means by which illuminating gas could be produced, the great Sir Humphrey Davy and Sir Walter Scott ridiculed the idea of its being put into practical

Daniel Webster, the expounder of the constitution, expressed the gravest doubts as to the advisability of curse upon the rule of kingly govern- that the frost on the rails would pre-

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